

“Integrated farming has strengthened my livelihood and future security”

IFS–WADI Based Livelihood Transformation: Case Study of Shri Binay Kumar Patel

Name: Shri Binay Kumar Patel

Father’s Name: Shri Ramachandra Patel

Gender: Male **Age:** 46 years

Address: Tainsar Village, Tainsar GP, Kuchinda
Block, Sambalpur District, Odisha

Total Landholding: 1 Acre (WADI – 1 Acre)

Additional Land: 2 Acres (leased) for paddy cultivation

Primary Source of Income (Earlier): Paddy cultivation

Project: NABARD IFS – WADI Programme

Implementing Agency: SARC (Social Action for Rural
Community) NGO



Farming Situation Before IFS–WADI

Before the introduction of the IFS–WADI intervention, Shri Binay Kumar Patel depended mainly on paddy cultivation, largely on leased land. Due to **low crop productivity, increasing cultivation costs, and marketing constraints**, farm income remained low and uncertain. Farming was seasonal in nature, and earnings were insufficient to meet household and agricultural expenses.

Market-related challenges were gradually addressed through **collective marketing and group selling practices** adopted by WADI farmers, which helped in securing better prices for produce.

Introduction of IFS–WADI Intervention

In the year **2023**, SARC introduced Shri Binay Kumar Patel to the **IFS–WADI model**, promoting orchard-based integrated farming on his own 1 acre of land. The objective was to diversify income sources, improve land productivity, and reduce dependency on mono-cropping.

Orchard Development (2023)

- **Mango:** 10 plants
- **Cashew (Kaju):** 30 plants
- **Total Area under WADI:** 1 Acre

The mango and cashew plants are currently in their vegetative growth stage. Fruit bearing has not yet started, and orchard income is expected in the coming years.

Integrated Cropping Practices

To generate regular income and ensure proper care of orchard plants, Shri Patel adopted intercropping and mixed farming practices within the WADI plot.

Major intercrops cultivated:

- Corm
- Green gram
- Horse gram
- Black gram
- Ragi and other seasonal crops

Regular cultivation has contributed to:

- Improved soil fertility
- Better moisture retention
- Healthy and uniform growth of mango and cashew plants

Income from Integrated Farming

Crop	Area (In Acre)	Gross Income (₹)	Expenses (In ₹)	Profit (₹)
Green gram	0.25	14,000	5,000	9,000
Horse gram	0.25	12,000	3,000	9,000
Black gram	0.2	13,000	4,000	9,000
Ragi & Corm (mixed)	0.3	18,000	6,000	12,000
Total Intercrop	1	₹ 90,000	₹ 35,000	₹ 39,000

Estimated Annual Farm Income (excluding orchard): ₹40,000–45,000

(Earlier annual income was below ₹25,000.)

Orchard Income

Mango and cashew are expected to start yielding from 2026–27 onwards, which will further enhance household income and livelihood security

Impact and Outcomes

- Diversified income sources throughout the year
- Reduced dependence on leased land for paddy cultivation
- Improved soil health and sustainable land use
- Better food security and household resilience
- Increased confidence in adopting improved farming practices
- Emerged as a progressive farmer within the village
- Inspired several neighbouring farmers to adopt the WADI model

✓ **Life Improved:** Yes

✓ **Inspired Other Farmers:** Yes (approximately 6–8 farmers)

Farmer's Experience

Shri Binay Kumar Patel shares:

“In my WADI field, along with mango and kaju plants, I cultivate crops like green gram, horse gram, black gram, ragi, and corm. Because the land is cultivated regularly, the orchard plants are also growing well. Along with crop production, my income is increasing and my confidence in farming has improved.”

Conclusion

The IFS–WADI Programme, implemented by SARC, has helped Shri Binay Kumar Patel move from low-return, single-crop farming to a diversified and sustainable integrated farming system. Although orchard income is yet to begin, the intercropping component has already improved income stability and land productivity. With mango and cashew expected to bear fruits in the coming years, the WADI model

promises long-term economic security and serves as a replicable example for farmers in Tainsar GP and Kuchinda Block.